

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Applicant submits that entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR 1.116 since no new issues requiring further search or consideration are presented.

Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 7-15 and 17 were previously presented. Claim 15 is amended and claim 17 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 7-15 are now pending.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sato (USP 5,754,745) in view of Tomida (USP 6,281,989). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claims 1 and 2, as presented, require "the printer to print the image stored in the image memory, *with an interruption condition being maintained*, if no instructions are input from the operation panel for a prescribed period after the interruption is instructed from the operation panel". Thus, after an interruption condition is started, if a predetermined period elapses with no instructions, images stored in memory are printed, *but the interruption condition is still maintained*. As shown in Fig. 2, a normal condition is returned to only if the interruption is specifically canceled (steps S45 and S51).

Method claim 15 is amended to include corresponding method limitations, without introduction of any new issues. In view of the amendment to claim 15, claim 17 is canceled.

In Sato, by contrast, after the predetermined time period elapses, the interruption condition ("execution-inhibited function") *is automatically canceled* (Sato, col. 28, lines 28-43). The Action references column 27, lines 18-26, in connection with applicant's claim limitation requiring maintenance of the interruption period during printing after the predetermined time period has elapsed. However, applicant has thoroughly reviewed Sato and finds no such disclosure.

Thus, there is a clear distinction between Sato and the present invention, as set forth in claims 1, 2 and 15. The present invention allows printing of an image stored in memory after the predetermined time period elapses, but maintains the interruption condition. In Sato, by contrast, the interruption period is automatically canceled after the predetermined time period elapses.

Since Sato and Tomida do not disclose or suggest all limitations of claims 1-4 and 7-15, applicant submits that the rejections should be withdrawn.

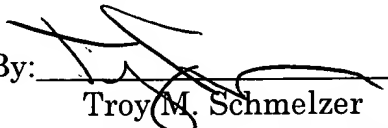
Applicant believes this amendment to be properly admissible under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). Alternatively, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(c). In this connection, these amendments were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action. Lastly, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: 
Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701